

Air Power
Quote of the Week

“History does not long en-trust the care of freedom to the weak and timid.”
– Gen. Dwight Eisenhower

News in Brief

July 4th activities

Del Rio Fourth of July festivities will begin 11 a.m. with a parade at Academy and Main Street in Del Rio. The parade will proceed down Main Street ending at Moore Park.

Parade participants will meet at Academy and Main in Del Rio by 10:15 a.m.

There will be a reception for all parade participants and dignitaries at 12:30 p.m. at the Joe Ramos Center located at 1105 de la Rosa (next to the Girls’ and Boys’ Club.)

A Laughlin flyover and bell-ringing ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. at Dr. Alfredo Gutierrez Amphitheatre. Swimming, games and food booths will be available 1-8 p.m.

Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcala and Col. Ken Smith will open the evening program at 8 p.m. at the amphitheatre followed by live music and entertainment. Fireworks begin at 10 p.m.

Mission status

(As of June 27)
Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	-0.64	84.7%
T-1	0.50	87.7%
T-38	-3.16	76.7%
T-6	-4.01	82.5%

Whats next? First T-6 students track select

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

Laughlin reached another milestone in its new T-6 Texan II program when the first class to train on the aircraft track-selected Monday.

“What’s special about this class is it was the first T-6 class at Laughlin,” said Capt. Eric Moraes, 84th Flying Training Squadron flight commander. “It’s the first class, the first flight and the first squadron at the first base transitioning [students] from T-37s to T-6s in the whole command.”

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 04-04 began training with ground school and academics earlier this year prior to hitting the flight line in the T-6. “The biggest difference from the T-37 was the most obvious, the tandem cockpit,” said Captain Moraes. “In the tandem cockpit, the student sits in front and the instructor pilot sits in back as



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Second Lt. Glenn Garcia, 84th Flying Training Squadron student pilot, takes off his helmet after completing the last check ride for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-04. This is the first Laughlin class to use the T-6 as its primary training aircraft.

opposed to the T-37 where they sit side-by-side. So the biggest hurdle was we couldn’t physically see what the students were doing with the controls while they were flying, but we could [infer] what they were going to do by their body language.”

While adjusting to the tandem cockpit, the instructor pilots also

trained the students using a new, unfamiliar course outline. “We’ve started a new syllabus with this class, a first-ever syllabus,” the captain added. “All IPs who have flown T-37s before know how the syllabus runs and where all the pitfalls and

[See ‘T-6’ page 4](#)

NCOs face mandatory retraining

More than 450 airmen have taken their careers in to their own hands by volunteering to change career fields under the initial phase of the Air Force’s FY03 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program – leaving more than 900 who may be involuntarily moved to shortage career skills starting July 7.

Air Force officials will begin notifying those airmen selected as most vulnerable to retrain around the second week of July, asking them to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to

retrain into as part of the program’s Phase II, which runs through Aug. 15.

“This phase of the retraining program is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by putting airmen where they are needed most,” said Chief Master Sgt. Alvin Diaz, chief of the skills management branch here.

Under Phase II, not everyone is guaranteed his or her first choice. Major commands continue to accept volunteer applications and personnel officials encourage all eligible NCOs

to also consider special duty assignments that need to be filled such as recruiting jobs, military training instructors, first sergeant duty or professional military education instructor, officials said.

“There’s still time for those who have been identified for possible retraining to volunteer,” said Chief Diaz. “It’s up to each airman, but if it were me, I’d think having control over my career would be a priority and help reduce the stress of not

[See ‘Retrain’ page 4](#)

Commanders' Corner

Col. Ken Smith

47th Flying Training Wing vice commander

Let us not forget roots of American freedom

This is the story about 56 very brave Americans who risked everything on a dream. These were ordinary men with an extraordinary vision. There were 25 lawyers or jurists, 11 merchants, four physicians, nine plantation and landowners, two ministers, a scientist, a teacher, a musician and a printer. They ranged in age from 26 to 70 years old.

These courageous men were as different in personality and family history as you and I. But they were bound by a commonality, a common purpose, which would forever change the face of the world.

All 56 were members of the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia June 7, 1776. This collection of men, driven by years of oppressive British rule, made a bold commitment for independence. Before a three-week recess, the Congress established a "Committee of Five" to draft a statement to present to the world ... the colonies' case for independence.

The committee was composed of two New England gentlemen, John Adams of Massachusetts and Roger Sherman of Connecticut; two men from the middle colonies, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert Livingston of New York; and one southerner, Thomas Jefferson. They unanimously selected Jefferson to create the first draft. Even John Adams, long known for his oratory skills, conceded that Jefferson was the most qualified to write the draft. With only a few minor editorial changes from Franklin and Adams, and a few added flourishes from Congress, the draft declaration, this Declaration of Independence, was ready. On July 1, 1776, 12 of the 13 colonies

voted to adopt a resolution for independence. Using the document crafted by Jefferson, late in the afternoon on July 4, the Declaration was officially adopted.

Interestingly, not a single signature was added on that day. While most of the 56 names were in place by early August, one signer, Thomas McKean, did not actually sign the document until 1781. One of the 56 members, Dr. Benjamin Rush said, "Stepping forward to sign the Declaration was like signing your own death warrant." They had all committed treason against the crown of England, a crime punishable by death. In fact, of those 56 signers, nine were killed, five were captured and brutally tortured by the British, 18 lost their homes and all they owned in the seven-year war of independence that would soon follow.

July 4th was the day singled out to mark the event. John Adams, who went on to become our nation's second president, later wrote his wife, "I believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival ... it ought to be celebrated by pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other."

Fifty-six very brave men. They stood tall and straight and unwavering, as they pledged, "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Let us not forget the roots of our freedom. Let us not forget these 56 brave Americans. Let us forever carry their torch of freedom.

Border Eagle commentaries

The Border Eagle encourages base members to take part in their paper. Anyone wanting to write a commentary for the Viewpoint pages of the paper is welcome.

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force life you find interesting. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs

reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

Commentaries for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication.

For more information, call 298-5393.



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The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: **timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil** or **yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil**.

July 4th message from the top

By Gen. Donald Cook
Air Education and Training Command commander

On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence as a nation and boldly formed a democracy.

Since those early days when our founding fathers established the United States, people from all nations and walks of life have ventured to the “land of the free and the home of the brave” to begin a new life and realize the “American Dream.” We should never forget the sacrifices of our forefathers as they secured and

preserved liberty for a new nation.

This July 4th, we continue the pursuit of liberty by waging an international war on terrorism. Our success in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom is key to our future security. In Afghanistan and now Iraq, we are sharing our freedom by planting the initial seeds of democracy, which we hope will blossom for generations to come.

John Adams wrote the Fourth of



General Cook

July should be “...celebrated by pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports...”

Clearly, our nation’s second president recognized the significance of celebrating freedom.

Today, we celebrate not only this country’s independence, but also the spirit of freedom that is alive, vibrant and worldwide.

“God grants liberty to those who love it and are always

ready to defend it,” penned statesmen Daniel Webster.

In the twenty-first century, we are the liberty’s defenders, applying the world’s most dominant air and space power to secure freedom. On this 227th anniversary of the birth of our nation, I encourage you to actively participate in celebrating America’s uniqueness, its people, its heroes, and its airmen.

As we celebrate, remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, our veterans and those who continue to serve. Happy Independence Day!

Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every at-

tempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Base shopping

Comment: I'm a civilian with the maintenance directorate here. I went into the base shoppette to register for a giveaway and the manager told me that it was for military members only. I flipped it over and read the rules on the back and it said patrons of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores were eligible. He got rather rude with me and said that we were allowed to buy things there but that we weren't patrons, and we weren't military, so I was not eligible. What can we do to fix this situation for all civilians here and maybe the bad attitudes about civilians shopping at the shoppette?

Answer: AAFES privileges are an entitlement normally limited to service members and retirees. Due to the number of Department of Defense civilian and contractor personnel who work on Laughlin, I asked for and received special permission from headquarters AAFES to provide limited AAFES privileges to these hard-working team XL members. This shopping privilege is limited to snack items and soft drinks. By extension, these members can register for AAFES giveaway contests from the snack and soft drink vendors. DoD civilian and contractor personnel are not authorized to purchase petroleum, alcohol or tobacco products from AAFES stores and therefore are also not authorized to enter in giveaways by those vendors. The

AAFES staff was thoroughly briefed on these rules, and we have re-emphasized the need for a patient and courteous sales staff.

School issues

Comment: My concern is that our kids have to attend school on Memorial Day when everybody else has it off. Our husbands don't get to spend much time with our kids as it is. My daughter's class is taking a test Monday and the principal advised me they will not allow her to make up the test or take it early unless she was seen by a doctor. Is there anything you can do to help with this situation?

Answer: I understand the school was able to make suit-

able arrangements for you on this issue. However, I would like to take the opportunity to tell base members we are planning a town hall meeting for base residents to discuss school district and education-related issues before the next school season begins in August. The school district superintendent is eager to work with the base on any issues of concern. At the meeting, I will present information on school district organization and how to bring issues to the school board for review. In addition, I would like to hear from base members who have any significant issues or concerns in this area. Once a date for the event is set, it will be publicized in the Border Eagle and the base bulletin. Hope to see you there.



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

Checking damage...

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Zach Porter (standing) and Capt. Mitch Simmons collect data from a coalition precision-guided munition strike. The roof of the Ba’ath Party headquarters building was hit during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The airmen are among nearly 100 experts of the Combined Weapons Effectiveness Assessment Team. The team has visited more than 100 of 500 planned sites to assess how well coalition weapons achieved their intended effects during Operation Iraqi Freedom. It will report its findings to U.S. Central Command this fall.

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tight spots are. We were finding them out as we were going through this class.”

While the majority of challenges came from inclement weather and limited resources, the IPs worked hard to get student pilots flying twice a day during phase two. “The big challenge we ran into with this class was weather; it pushed us back a lot,” said Captain Moraes. “The base was continuously getting air-planes, about one every three weeks, but we had to run this class with a limited number of resources. Maintenance personnel and the IPs worked 12-hour days to accomplish the mission and get students trained and on to phase three. It was tough.”

‘Retrain’ from page 1

knowing whether or not I will get that notification asking me to make a selection – I’d volunteer.”

The retraining program is designed to help balance the enlisted force by moving NCOs in specialties with surpluses to those with shortages. In April, the Air Force said it needed about 1,400 airmen to change careers.

Things such as retention rates and new promotions have an effect on how many airmen will finally be retrained and where they will be needed, said Chief Diaz. “But unless a large number suddenly step up and volunteer, we’ll be looking for another 900 or so.”

“We will work with those who

With the student pilots on their way to phase three and 90-hours of flying, they’ve been introduced to what it takes to be an Air Force pilot. “As with anything new, there is going to be a lot of trial and error,” said 2nd Lt. Glenn Garcia, 84th FTS student. “There were a lot of things that were very successful and some things that will be improved for future classes. I just feel incredibly privileged and lucky to be part of that process.”

“We’re the second busiest airport in the command, we’re the third busiest in the Air Force and the fourth busiest in the world,” said Captain Moraes. “To smoothly transition the first class here is pretty amazing considering our operations tempo.”

have been selected for retraining, as we would any retraining case, in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for the airman and his or her family while still meeting the needs of the Air Force,” said Tech. Sgt. Derek Hughes, noncommissioned officer in charge of Air Force retraining here.

Vulnerability listings by grade and Air Force specialty code will be updated online weekly on the Air Force Personnel Center’s Web site at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Retraining/retraining.htm>.

Anyone interested in more details about the program can contact his or her local military personnel flight.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

Awards luncheon

The 47th Flying Training Wing second quarter awards luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. July 30 at Club XL.

All nominees should R.S.V.P. by calling 298-5635. Commanders and distinguished visitors should R.S.V.P. by calling wing protocol at 298-4708. The last day to R.S.V.P. is July 23. All others wishing to attend should contact their unit point of contact.

For more information, call Tech Sgt. Wesley Morris at 298-5406.

Daedalians scholarships

The George Beverly Flight of the Order of

Newslines

Daedalians is sponsoring two flight scholarships in the amount of \$500. People attending or admitted to an accredited four-year college or university showing the desire and potential to pursue a career as a commissioned military pilot are eligible to apply.

The applications can be found on the internet at www.daedalians.org/index.html. Mail completed application to 109 Fox Drive, Del Rio, Texas. The deadline to receive applications is July 21. Selectees will be forwarded to the national committee for potential matching funds.

For more information, call Lew Nunley at 774-0278 or 298-5430.

Clinic closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for a group commander’s call from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. July 21. During this time, all clinics will be closed and the Nurse Triage Line will not be available. Radiology, the Laboratory and the Pharmacy will also be closed. The Tricare Service Center will be open.

If you have a medical emergency, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room. For other care, call (800) 406-2832.

For more information, call 298-6309.



Graduation

SUPT Class 03-11 graduates



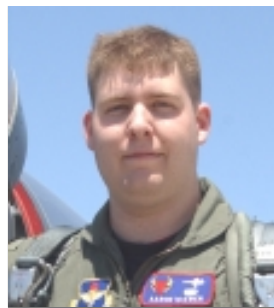
1st Lt. Jeffrey Dennis
T-6,
Laughlin AFB



1st Lt. Vince Livie
KC-10,
McGuire AFB, N.J.



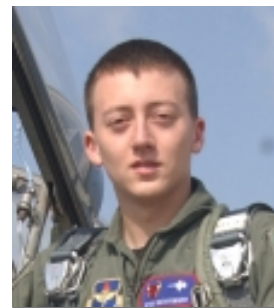
1st Lt. Jonathan Ma
C-17,
McChord AFB, Wash.



1st Lt. Aaron McEwen
A-10,
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. David Anderson
F-15C,
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Ryan Behringer
F-15E,
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Kate Black
T-1,
Laughlin AFB



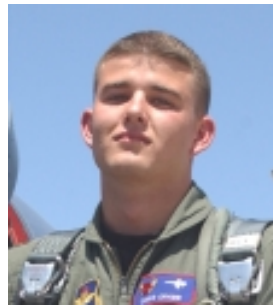
2nd Lt. Sara Brokering
KC-135,
RAF Mildenhall, England



2nd Lt. Benjamin Caricofe
C-17,
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. David Cook
B-1,
Dyess AFB, Texas



2nd Lt. Christopher Crabb
F-16,
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Kent Crane
C-21,
Scott AFB, Ill.



2nd Lt. Rex DeLoach Jr.
E-8, (ANG)
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Alex Edwards
F-15C,
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Matthew Flynn
KC-135,
McConnell AFB, Kan.



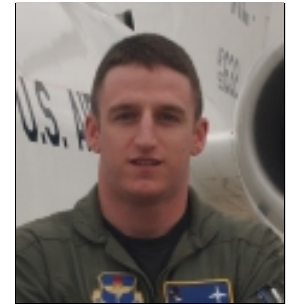
2nd Lt. Andrew Grieb
A-10, (ANG)
Martin State ANGB, Md.



2nd Lt. Brandon Hartmann
KC-10,
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Brian Jones
T-6,
Moody AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Christopher Kelly Jr.
C-21,
Scott AFB, Ill.



2nd Lt. John Lax
C-130,
Little Rock AFB, Ark.



2nd Lt. Samuel Moore
T-37,
Laughlin AFB



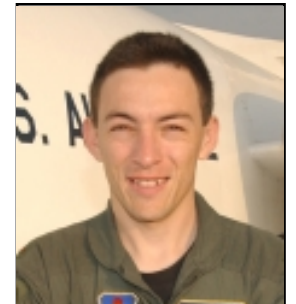
2nd Lt. Nicholas Robbins
KC-135,
Kadena AB, Japan



2nd Lt. John Suter
KC-135, (ANG)
McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Jacob Westwood
KC-135,
Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Mark Wilkerson
KC-135, (ANG)
March AFB, Calif.

July Centennial of Flight history

July 27, 1909: Orville Wright, with Lt. Frank P. Lahm as passenger, performed the first official Army flight test at Fort Myer, Va. They flew more than an hour, meeting one of the specification requirements for a military airplane.

July 19, 1911: Orville Wright delivered the Navy’s first Wright airplane (a Wright B land machine) at Annapolis, Md. The aircraft was subsequently converted into a seaplane by the addition of twin floats.

July 5, 1912: Capt. Charles deForest Chandler, 2d Lt. Thomas D. Milling and 2d Lt. Henry H. Arnold became the first Army pilots to qualify as military aviators.

July 22, 1933: Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world, covering almost

15,600 miles in fewer than eight days. He flew a Lockheed Vega called *Winnie Mae*.

July 2, 1937: Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in their attempt to fly around the world, a trip they began May 21 from San Francisco eastward.

July 19, 1941: Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a West Point graduate whose father had been the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, reported to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama with 12 aviation cadets to begin flight training as the first class of black pilot candidates in the U.S. military.

July 26, 1947: President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act, which created a Department of the Air Force equal to the Department of the Army and the Department of the Navy; a National Military Estab-

lishment under the secretary of defense; and an Air National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force.

July 30, 1948: North American Aviation delivered to the Air Force its first operational jet bomber – the B-45A Tornado. Later it became the first Air Force aircraft to carry a tactical nuclear bomb.

July 11, 1955: The Air Force Academy admitted its first class, 306 cadets, at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo. – a temporary location until it could move to Colorado Springs.

July 16, 1971: Jeanne M. Holm, director of Women in the Air Force, was promoted to brigadier general, becoming the first woman general in

the Air Force.

July 1, 1983: As a war raged between Iran and Iraq, posing a threat to the oil-rich nations of the Persian Gulf, the Air Force activated its first unit in Saudi Arabia – a provisional support squadron at Riyadh Air Base.

June 21–July 25, 1985: Flying 73 sorties, three C-123K Provider crews sprayed more than 735,000 acres of public land in southern Idaho from the air to stop a grasshopper infestation.

July 23, 1999: Col. Eileen M. Collins, USAF, who had been the first woman pilot of a space shuttle in 1995, became the first woman commander of a space-shuttle mission on a flight of the *Columbia*.



The Family Support Center offers an array of services to help families prepare for deployment and keep everyone in touch during deployments. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 298-5574 or 298-5620.

EOD experts keep assessors safe

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Finding a bomb that accurately struck an Iraqi target but did not go “bang” is not a good thing, according to combined weapons effectiveness assessment team officials.

They said unexploded ordnance is not good because it is a weapon that did not perform as intended. It is also a danger for both Iraqis in the area and for members of the assessment team, who crawl over sites targeted during Operation Iraqi Freedom to assess the effec-

tiveness of coalition weapons.

Identifying unexploded ordnance and dealing appropriately with them are what explosive ordnance disposal experts do best. For that reason, there are six EOD specialists included on the assessment team.

At the vast majority of the more than 250 sites inspected so far, the weapons successfully detonated, but at a few sites, the team has found unexploded ordnance.

At each site the team examines, most members of

the team do not enter the area until EOD experts go in first. The EOD troops scour each site for unexploded weapons.

“We are identifying hazards on site – (unexploded ordnance) or anything else explosive related,” said Master Sgt. Eddy Dominguez, a 20-year EOD veteran deployed to Iraq from the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

When they locate unexploded ordnance, the EOD specialists advise team

leaders about appropriate safety precautions and record the precise location using the Global Positioning System. Then they pass the information to an Army detonation team, which destroys the ordnance. With the help of a translator, they also advise local residents about how to stay safe around the ordnance.

In most cases, the assessment team is still able to examine the sites.

“Just because there’s (an unexploded ordnance) in the area doesn’t mean the

team has to come to a screeching halt, and we have to avoid that target,” Sergeant Dominguez said. “All that means is we have to observe certain safety precautions associated with that type of ordnance. We can work well around the ordnance and still continue to collect data.

“In essence,” he said, “we keep the team going forward.”

The team will present a report of its findings to U.S. Central Command Air Forces this fall.



Predator unmanned aerial vehicle prowls Iraq

2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq – It hunts alone, flying quietly for more than 20 hours at a time, carefully scouring the earth for the most minute evidence of ground activity and discretely relaying intelligence information to analysts half a world away.

But on a moment’s notice, the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle can transform itself from a forward aerial-observer to an opportunist attack craft capable of delivering an armor-busting missile with pinpoint accuracy.

The Predator is a complete system, not just an airframe by itself. A fully operational system consists of four aircraft with sensors, a ground-control station, a satellite link and

about 55 people to support continuous 24-hour operations. To the airmen who fly them, the system is more than just an expensive video game.

Inside the Predator’s brain, there is room for a crew of two. The ground-control station, a box-like container which resembles the end section of a tractor-trailer, controls almost every move of the 27-foot craft.

“(The stations) are designed to do nothing more than get the aircraft airborne and get it down,” said Lt. Col. Eric Jessen, 64th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron commander and Predator pilot.

“It’s like a laptop flight simulator,” said Capt. Gary Town, 64th ERS pilot. “I’ve actually enjoyed flying it. It is challenging.”

Part of the challenge is flying the Predator at 80

mph through tiny cameras mounted on the airframe, Captain Town said.

“You’re looking through Dixie straws,” said Colonel Jessen, an 18-year Air Force veteran and former A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot. “You lose all depth perception ... and you have to keep remembering what camera you’re looking through.”

The Predator’s cameras act like multiple sets of eyes that assist the crew in flying the aircraft and conducting ground reconnaissance. They are also the most expensive part of the aircraft, Captain Town said.

“The aircraft itself is worth about (\$2 million to \$3 million) but with the ‘ball’ the price goes up to about \$7 million,” Captain Town said about the spherical-shaped housing on the Predator’s underside. It contains all but one of the

surveillance cameras. The day camera is located in the aircraft’s nose and is used for flight control, while others are used for surveillance in low-light environments such as smoke, clouds or haze.

The sensor operator, who is usually an enlisted imagery-analysis specialist, operates the cameras for reconnaissance purposes. Predator pilots come from many walks of life.

“Everybody’s got a different past,” Colonel Jessen said. “We even have some navigators ... they can fly Predators as long as they have a civilian pilot’s license.”

As Predators become

more integrated with the Hellfire missile system, Air Force officials are looking at using more fighter pilots to fly them, said Colonel Jessen.

Captain Town, a former AC-130 gunship pilot, said he thrives on the Predator mission and has no regrets about its high demand.

“We’ll see (air expeditionary forces) cycle in and out, and we’ll be here,” he said. “We’re needed everywhere. We’re kind of like tanker units – we go, and we stay.”

“(It) feels good to support the guys on the ground,” Captain Town said. “It’s been very rewarding for me.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Deb Smith

Airmen from the 64th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron position a Predator unmanned aerial vehicle at Tallil Air Base, Iraq. The Predator is a complete system, not just an individual airframe. A fully operational system consists of four Predator units, a ground-control station, a satellite link and about 55 people to support continuous 24-hour operations.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Saturday ● 5 p.m., Mass
Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., R.C.I.A.
Reconciliation ● By appointment
Religious Education ● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish, Muslim and other denominations

● Call 298-5111

Nondenominational

Sunday ● 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
Friday ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
Monthly ● Women’s fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

Protestant

Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
● 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship, nursery provided)
Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study

For more information on chapel events

The XLer

1st Lt. Barbara Costa

47th Operation Support Squadron weather flight commander

Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.
Family: Husband, Jerry; stepdaughter, Breanna; daughter, Celeste
Time at Laughlin: 10 months
Time in service: 15 years
Greatest accomplishments: Having a family and getting a degree
Hobbies: Family time, bowling, reading and gardening
Bad habits: Pack rat
Favorite music: Classic rock
Favorite movie: “The Shawshank Redemption”
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My father, to learn his family history and culture.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Linguists: first to speak for team in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Targeters and engineers are obvious choices for a weapons-assessment team. However, often Arab linguists are the first to speak to the Iraqis about what happened, according to officials.

Linguists have been integral as the Combined Weapons Effectiveness Assessment Team travels to different impact sites, leaders said. The team is assessing how well weapons performed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We explain what we’re doing,” said linguist Capt. Brett Seiling, “and then usually there’s not a problem.”

Linguists help force protection by preventing misunderstandings, he said. “If there’s anything going on, we’re the first ones to help clear things up.”

At one of the Iraqi intelligence buildings, “kids came running down the hall hugging the wall and saying (they were) scared,” he said. Captain Seiling explained why the team was there, and

the children were able to walk away reassured.

Iraqis often bring issues to the linguists, who said many locals expressed interest in getting to work. They “wanted barbed wire to secure their buildings,” said fellow linguist 2nd Lt. Anthony Langley. A shopkeeper asked for a shovel to help clear debris from the road outside his shop. His home is located near a military target and had been damaged in three wars.

The shopkeeper gave away cold drinks to team members and refused to accept payment. “You are our friend,” he said.

“Arab hospitality is a real thing,” Captain Seiling said. His first day out in Baghdad, his team encountered a family who had moved into an abandoned building. Despite living next to a bombed-out building for 60 days, the family with more than six children asked him inside for tea.

Although they “had absolutely nothing, they would give you tea if it’s the last thing they had,” Captain Seiling said.

Lieutenant Langley said most of all he was impressed with “how quickly all the kids hopped to what (the father) had to say.”

Families are one of the first things Iraqis ask about, Captain Seiling said. They ask, “Are you married? Do you have kids?”

Lieutenant Langley said he specifically carries pictures of his wife and children to show. “That’s a big deal,” he said with a smile. “I know my kids are cute, now all the Arabs know it too.”

“The kids all want to tap on our chest plates,” Lieutenant Langley said. “They want to try on our sunglasses.”

Some have been told, he said, that wearing sunglasses allows them to see through clothing.

“Letting the kids try them on shows that you can’t ‘see through’ anything,” he said.

“Iraq is a modern, secular and educated country,” Mr. Seiling said. “There is a foundation to build from for sure. They know their language is hard, and they take pride in it.”

Nation will not forsake missing

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – The quest to account for missing servicemen from the Vietnam, Korean and Cold Wars and World War II “is unwavering, untiring and will not fail.” That is what Jerry D. Jennings said during the 34th annual National League of Families conclave here June 27.

The war against terrorism, including Afghanistan and Iraq, will not diminish the nation’s efforts to account for the missing from past conflicts, said Mr. Jennings. He is the deputy assistant secretary of defense for prisoner of war and missing personnel affairs and director of the defense POW and missing in action office.

Missing servicemembers will not be forsaken to take care of those in

harm’s way today, he said.

“Our mission of the fullest possible accounting has not and will not be diminished by combat operations around the world,” Mr. Jennings said.

He told the gathering of other loved ones of missing servicemen that Congress has made clear its desire that the mission to account for the missing will not be cut.

“In fact,” he said, “much of our field work and resources have actually increased because Congress supports our mission. And they’ve also specified that the manpower and the budget of (the POW/MIA office) will not be touched.”

The office has more than 600 people of different specialties working every day around the world to account for the more than 88,000 Americans missing from all con-

flicts, Mr. Jennings said.

“In another new initiative, I’ve invited senior policy-level representatives from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to attend POW/MIA consultations in Bangkok, Thailand, in October,” Jennings told the audience. “We plan to discuss lessons learned from the past, craft strategies to advance the effort in Southeast Asia and forge together a vision for the future.”

Mr. Jennings said he foresees the countries exchanging ideas, fostering greater cooperation and ultimately getting the answers to America’s and the families’ questions about the missing.

he office is also planning a veteran-to-veteran exchange in Southeast Asia.

“American veterans organizations have already offered support

for this initiative,” he said. “We’re appreciative of their willingness to join with us in what we believe will be a very productive initiative.”

American efforts to press for greater cooperation continue beyond Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia into Russia and other countries, Mr. Jennings said.

He said efforts are underway to allow declassification of some Russian military records from the Vietnam War era. “In recent months, the Russians have provided us with excerpts of classified materials that we’re correlating with our own records relating to American loss incidents,” Jennings said.

Unfortunately, as long as nations have disagreements, there will be wars,” he said. “We’re not finished until the job is done to bring home every American warrior.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Williams

Catch a lift...

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Rene Anderson takes a moment to have a little fun during a convoy’s delay at Baghdad International Airport on June 25. The convoy was established to pickup and deliver supplies and vehicles to Kirkuk Air Base in northern Iraq. Anderson is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Check us out online

The electronic version of the Border Eagle has a link on the Laughlin Web Page at:
<http://www.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/pa/basepaper/index.html>

Southwinds Marina offers excitement, variety

By Master Sgt. Tom Hankus
Public affairs

So you just arrived in Del Rio, or maybe you’ve been here for a short while and you think to yourself, there just can’t be anything to do in a small town like this.

You like to fish, but you hear that prices at Lake Amistad are enough to make you want to jump overboard. So what do you do? Well there is always the bass fisherman show on Saturday afternoons, but you know deep inside that 10 minutes of that is just about all you can handle.

Well there is good news for the

boating and fishing enthusiasts at Laughlin. Laughlin has its very own marina, Southwinds Marina, which has ski bass and pontoon boats for rent. Depending on your rank, the prices range form \$7 to \$20 per hour.

The fishing at Lake Amistad is second to none. Did you know that this area is one of the great fishing lakes in the country? It is the first stop for the nation’s top fishermen qualifying for the big bass tournament of the year.

How about if you just want to relax?

Southwinds Marina can take

care of those needs too. You can camp in a tent, your recreational vehicle (full hookups, water, sewage and satellite service) or rent one of the marina cabins which go for \$27.50 per night and accommodate up to four adults and two children. They come with a refrigerator, air conditioning and a microwave for those who really want to rough it in the wilds of Texas.

They even have a covered pavilions available to organizations for free. People using the facility just have to return it the way they found it, clean, in order to receive their \$50

deposit.

Where is this paradise anyway? Southwinds Marina is located on Lake Amistad just a few miles form the Amistad Dam off Highway 90 West. Just turn left at Spur 349 and follow the signs.

For more information and reservations, call John Buffone at (830) 775-7800.

So enjoy yourself. Now you have something to do all yearlong, if you like. What are you waiting for? Give John a call.

Don’t let this opportunity get away.



10 reasons for regular exercise

By Bill Goins
*47th Flying Training Wing
exercise physiologist*

Is all of this exercise really worth the effort? Can't this be a whole lot easier? When will we be able to keep fit while lounging in the La-Z-Boy?

There are too many days when we are tempted to skip the workout. How many of you have said "I'll start tomorrow"? How many days ago was yesterday? Well, tomorrow is now and the La-Z-Boy will last longer the less you sit in it anyway.

The benefits of exercise will only accrue to those who make it part of a healthy lifestyle. Making healthier choices for your life are not part of the next month or two just so you can fit back into a dress, a pair of pants or pass a bike test. This is part of a lifelong commitment.

Here are 10 good reasons to start exercising today or get back on track if you've stopped. You have probably heard these before, but sometimes a healthy reminder helps to re-confirm the importance of making exercise a priority.

■ Regular aerobic exercise helps prevent heart disease by slowing the build up of plaque on the arteries of

the heart. Active people will tend to have larger, cleaner arteries. Aerobic exercise also increases the level of good HDL cholesterol in the bloodstream, which helps carry the cholesterol out of the arteries, while decreasing the bad LDL cholesterol. Aerobic exercise helps prevent obstructive blood clots from forming in the arteries.

■ An additional cardiovascular benefit of regular aerobic exercise is that it helps to normalize blood pressure, especially in those whose blood pressure is somewhat elevated. Aerobic exercise makes the heart a stronger and more efficient pump. Resting heart rates will usually decrease over time due to regular aerobic exercise because as the heart becomes stronger it can pump more blood per beat. Therefore, it must beat less times per minute to pump the same amount of blood.

■ Exercise improves the body's ability to regulate blood sugar, prevent type II diabetes.

■ Weight-bearing exercise prevents the loss of bone mineral that naturally occurs as we age. Weight-bearing exercises can include walking, jogging, aerobic dance, weight lifting, racquet sports, etc. – any ac-

tivity that applies some force to the bone structure.

■ Physical activity also strengthens the muscles and joints and other structures that help hold the body together in a strong and healthy manner.

■ Exercise helps control body weight and is essential in any credible weight management program. Exercise assists weight lost through a combination of a healthy, low fat diet and exercise is more likely to be from fat loss, rather than water or muscle tissue loss. Weight loss is more likely to be managed if a person is participating in a regular exercise program. A history of weight gain and weight loss is detrimental to your health and can slow your basal metabolic rate. Therefore, a slow and steady weight management program including exercise and healthy eating is the only way to go.

■ By preventing the loss of lean muscle tissue (which is the engine in your car that burns the fat) exercise helps prevent the drop in metabolic rate that sometimes accompanies weight loss and the gradual decline in metabolic rate that naturally occurs as we age.

■ In many ways, exercise is the an-

tithesis to aging. Exercise can help maintain stamina, strength, flexibility, bone density, metabolic rate and general enthusiasm that usually decreases as we age. Exercise gives you the ability to maintain an independent lifestyle and increases the likelihood that you will be able to enjoy your post-retirement years.

■ Maintaining flexibility in the muscles of the legs and lower back, and strength in the abdominals and back muscles can help prevent the development of back problems that can be debilitating and very painful.

■ Exercise makes life more fun. As fitness improves, activity becomes easier. Exercise is a stress reliever, helps you feel more relaxed, and even sleep better. And let's face it, the better you look and feel about yourself, the more confident you are and the more you enjoy life!

So, it is time to get off your butt and start doing something. Do anything. I would love for you all to join me at the XL Fitness Center, but if you don't, get started doing something. Take walks outside in the mornings. Use the stairs instead of the elevator. Drink water instead of soft drinks.

Just do something.

Sportslines

Golf tournament

The George Beverley Flight of the Order of the Daedalians is having a scholarship golf tournament 8 a.m. July 16 at Leaning Pine Golf Course. The entry fee is \$40 per person, \$30 for military course members. The fee includes green fees, cart fee, breakfast tacos, beverages on the course and a chicken fajita dinner after the tournament. There are prizes for the top three teams as well as prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin.

For more information, call Lew Nunley at 774-0278 or e-mail him at lwnunley@delrio.com or call Tom Moore at 775-9263.298-5251.

XL Fitness Center hours

Monday – Thursday:

5 a.m. to midnight



Friday:

5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday:

9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Holidays:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Softball standings

Team	W-L
MEO 1	9-0
OSS	7-2
87th	4-5
LSI	4-5
MEO 2	3-5
86th	2-7
84/85th	1-8

Team	W-L
Med GP	9-0
CES	8-0
Trend 1	6-2
Trend 2	3-5
CCS	3-5
SFS	2-6
MSS	0-8

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